



A  
DISCOVRSE  
OF THE GREAT

ouerthrow giuen by the French

King vnto the Leaguers in Poictiers, in  
Februarie last.

*With the names of all such men of account as were slaine  
or taken Prisoners.*

Truly translated according to the French Coppie, printed  
by the Kings Printer at Tours.



LONDON

*Printed for Cuthbert Burbie, and are to bee sold at the  
middle shop vnder Sains Mildreds Church.*

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*Handwritten notes in the right margin:*  
1593  
all done  
1593

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## A DISCOVRSE OF

all that vvhich happened in

Poictiers, of the ouerthrow of the Vi-

cont *de La Guierche*, and all his

Annie, in Februarie last.



I was wel inough  
known vnto the  
most part, that the  
towne and Castle  
of Guyerche (bee-  
ing a passage ouer  
the riuier of Ce-  
ruse) dyd greatlie  
hinder the kinges  
friends, and fauor  
his enemies, vnder the colour of the olde Lord  
of the place, which had obtained of his Maiestie  
in respect of his age, a certain assurance (hauing  
the like of the contrarie parte, by meanes of the  
Vicont his sonne, who was chiefe of Poictiers)  
to the end he might seeme the kinges friend, bee-  
ing indeed altogether a fauourer and vpholder  
of the Spaniards, as his sonne was,

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And

And since these troubles it is found that the olde Lord would not suffer passage to be geuen to the Kings troupes, but when the Leaguers had passed by he would not (although he did) see them: And so much yet did this contagion breake forth to the harme of manie Inhabitants of his Towne, who affected the Vicont, that they which were encountred by the kinges troupes, (information being geuen of their demeanor) they were iudged to be of good prize, and voluntarily paid ransom.

Besides this, the Vicont hauing intelligence of the sicknes of his father, had seduced manie persons to his parttaking, to the end to surprice the place as soone as occasion might bee ministred vnto him, but was preuented by the diligence of Monsieur de Sallerin, chiefe Gouvernor for his Maiestie of the Towne and Castle of Loches. Who hauing had intelligence of these actions, and considering likewise the enormitie and danger which this place might be vnto all that Countrie, and chieslie vnto the town of Loches, which was not aboue five or sixe miles distant from them, he iudged that it was requisite to remedie it speedelie.

And meaning to ouerslip no time, hee sent on the second sunday of this moneth of Februarie, the young Prince of Campagnol to surprise the said Town of Guierche, being assisted with these Captaines, *Prat, Brunet, Gardellia, de l'Age, Beray,*

*Beray, Orignal, Cormier*, and others of the ordinarie followers of the sayd Lord of Sallerin, who executed so happely the enterprise, that they tooke the said Towne on Mondaye, being the third day of Februarie, about seuen of the clock in the morning, by the order & direction which the Lord of Sallerin had geuen. In the taking whereof, there was few slaine of account, but the Lorde de la Chastiere, who was slaine in flight, being chiefe Commaunder of the saide Towne, and much affectioned vnto the Vicont.

This being done, presently the Lorde of Campagnoll gaue aduertisement of this exploit to the Lord Sallerin Pou, that he might prouide for that which might follow: for that the castle was not yet taken, neither had they wherewith to force them, and the old Lord of the place had aduertised his sonne the Vicont, of his mishap, willing him to come to his succours. Which thing gaue apparant testimonie of entercourse betweene the father and the sonne, and that the shewe which the old Lorde made, was but to keepe his goods, being in his minde and action altogether enemy to the king.

The Lorde of Sallerin vnderstanding of these accidents, and resolving to goe thither in person, as well for that he would not leaue his Soldiers and friendes in danger, as also not to leaue such a worke vnfinished, being a thing of  
great

great importance, to the seruice of the King, & benefit to al the Countrie: and hauing already prepared for that enterprife, there was presently sent him by Monsieur de Vaure, brother vnto Monsieur de Montigici, thirtie light horsemen, and fiftie Harquebusiers on horsbacke, being guided by the Lord of Boys la Vigne, hee advertised also Captaine Coueselles, Lieutenant to the Lorde of Lessart a Chastilop, to come thether with his Garrison, and the Captaine Houssaye, and Meray, with sixtie harguebusies, on horsback.

In the meane time the said Lord of Sallesrin sent the Captaines S. Anne, S. Michall, and Chizeaux, being of the regiment of the Lorde de Vatau, to the saide Towne of Guierche, to serue and ayde the said Lord of Campagnoll in these affaires, and himselfe vsed diligence in all other things which he thought conuenient for his purpose.

After he had ordered these things before spoken and rehearsed, he caused two Culucrins to be prepared in readines, for to march, as hee thought, very requisite, and sent to Monsieur the Mayor of Tours, praying him to sende him the Captaine la Vallade, with threescore harguebusies, for to safeconduct the two peeces.

And meaning himselfe to goe before, hee gaue order to receiue the said Captaine, Lorde Vallade, into Loches, and there to stay vntill he sent

sent him word to the contrarie, and also to keep the companie which he brought, and expect other forces from him to accompanie the sayde peeces if he had time.

Also, the said Lord sent the same day certaine Carts laden with powder, pikes, shot, and other instruments of warre, which might serue for such occasions.

On the next morrow which was Tuesdaye, the said Lord of Sallerin departed from Loches, with the Lord Bois la Vigne, the Lords; gouernors of Pretay de Marernes, Castram la Bigeay; les Moulins, and le Puy Becheron, being all of them Gentlemen bordering neere Loches, and which had the daie before vowed to aide and assiste him: and making in all fiftie horse, they came about siue of the clock that euening vnto Guierche. Where presently hee was certified, that the Vicont of Guierche was comming thither with two hundred Horsemen, and two hundred Harguebusiers on horseback, two hundred Spanishe Footemen, and two hundred Frenchmen, bringing with them one peece of campane ordinance.

Vppon which newes, the Lorde of Sallerin sent to Monsieur d'Abain, Gouvernour of the high and lowe Marches, (who was then not far off vpon other occasions) desiring to ayde him with his forces, which he presently graunted to, and hauing the Lord Baron d'Abain, his son

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with

with him, hee went to ioyne in companie with the said Lord Sallerin, in Guierche, with thirtie good horse, and an hundred harguebusiers on horseback, who resolued first to goe and see the three troupes of the Regiment of Vatan, which were lodged in the Suburbes, neere the Bridge of Guierche, and to knowe particularlie what want of munition for warre they were in, for their defence, geuing them to vnderstande of the resolute attempt which the night following he meant to make to them of the Castle, by assaulting of them: Foreseeing that if the Vicont came before hee did assault, it might make the thing more hard vnto him.

He also willed the Gentlemen which were within, to deliuer vp the place, otherwise hee would burne their houses which were neer vnto Guien, and punish them rigorously when he had taken the place, whereof he hoped verie shortly to be possessor. To which commaundement they in the end consented, for the causes abouesaid, and yeelded the Castle the fiste daie of Februarie, three houres within the euening, which was contrarie to the old mans will.

Which Castle the Lord Campagnoll did take possession of with twentie Soldiers onelie, which thing fell out happilie, for that the Vicont arriued that day following about three of the clock, with all his troupes, meaning indeede to besiege the Towne and Castle, with those  
which



which were before besieged.

The Vicont with his forces made an assault vnto the Suburbs neere adioyning to the bridge, which was the quarter defended by the three Companies before named, and forced them to retire, but they recouering the forces, droue him back againe, and forced him to departe, hauing first had intelligence of the yeelding of the Castle, and resolved to passe the riuer of the Ile, where he had a house at commandement, very neere the passage.

The day being come, the Lord de Sallesrin, with the Lorde d'Abain, resolving to provide for the garde of that place, wente with fourescore good horsemen, and two hundred Harguebusies on horseback, to the intent to doe all the honour to the Vicont, in conducting him to the gates of Poictiers, and to recompence him (if it might be) by the way, for the great paines hee had taken.

Also he followed them euen to the Suburbs of the castle of Vieux, being distaunt from Guierche three leagues, he encountered one of their companies of Harguebusies, which went to refresh themselves, the which he quickly put to flight without anie great resistance.

And the said Lords, to follow their first

resolution, having first discovered those which did retire. At the last then they pursued them with their light horsemen, being led by the Lord Baron de Abain, and Bors la Vigne, which sought all meanes to know their enemies forces, to take their advantage in the battaile, to which they were so lately bent. But being hindered by the often skirmiges they had with them, as they followed, and the place where the Vicount was, unknowne vnto them, the Lordes de Sallerin, and d'Abain, resolved to march to the right side of the Tower de Oyzay, being a verie high place, where they might best describe their enemies forces, whereof as yet they were vncertaine.

And in the meane time the Lord Preaux, (who as he had heard was his great friend, and was comming along the Riuer of Vienna, with one hundred and fiftie, or two hundred footmen, and fortie horsemen, being as well of the high tower, as of the garrison) might ioyne with him in the plain neere the riuer by them. The Lord de Sallerin leauing his companie, went to find the L. d'Abain, & Bois la Vigne, who were gone with 12. or 15. horse, to describe the order and force of the enemies, which they did so effectually, as it came to such euents as they looked for, and there.

therefore with all their force marched forth to finde out the L. de Abain, & Preaux; who abode about 100. paces from thē, expecting the battel, which to begin, they sent 20 horsemen, & 50. hargueb. guided by L. Sallerin. The L. des Preux aduanced forth his footmen, backt with his cauallers, who went valiantly to assaile the infantry of the enemy, lodged by the enemy for most aduantage.

This troupe receiued many canon shotte from the castle of the Ile, and the harguebutiers of the shot of the enemies, and of those which lay in couert, did execute very braue exploites of armes, the French & Spaniards fighting valiantly hand to hand: but at last, by the braue resolution of M. de Preux, the Lords d'Gardeuil, Mesignac, Barredon, de Vaure, la Bruere, and de Cruere, who with their troupes behaued them so valyantlie, that they took the ditches, gained the mountain and the meadow, and the Spaniards halfe ouercome, retired to their main battell, lying pursued very closely. L. Baron d'Abain, and de la Vigne, hauing *uerque la Canallerse*, the whole companie were put to flight, and vanquished more by sight of our courage, then by our force, where in the flight was made a great slaughter of the enemies, who were so luely followed, and hardly pursued,

and seeing the passage on that side of Chau-  
uign, in the height of the riuer, to be kept  
with the troupes of the Lorde Abain, and  
Sallerin, and that they could not escape the  
edge of the sword, they cast themselves into  
the Riuer, where all that did so, were imme-  
diately drowned.

The Vicont himselfe, hoping of better  
fortune then the others, had (with many of  
the principall Leaguers) put themselves in-  
to a great Boat, and assaied to passe, but the  
Harguebushers with their shotte, made such  
a bramblement within their boat, as also,  
that many of those which were in the water  
did catch holde of the boat, thereby to saue  
themselves, so that the strength and weight  
of them did ouerturne the boate the vplide  
downe.

A woondersfull thing then was it to be-  
holde this spectacle, which resembled a pat-  
terne of the deluge, and to heare the horri-  
ble cries of men, and horses. The riuer bee-  
ing couered with hats, and clokes, and men,  
and horses, drowned, and halfe drowned,  
which had sunke, and diued vp againe. Of  
some their heads appeared, of others their  
legs and armes, the most of them armed and  
booted.

Which dreadfull thing doeth shewe  
th

the iust iudgement of God vpon these miserable Leaguers, who hauing made such ruine of good men, receiued from God the guerdon of their penurie, and the chastisement which they had merited, and iustly deserued.

The Vicont himselfe being knowen, of one of his owne friends was taken prisoner, who tooke him out of the water, and carried him on a mare vnto the foresaid Chasteleraut.

In this ouerthrowe the sixte of February there were slaine and drowned more then fise hundred men. Amongst the which, at the least were fourescore Gentlemen and Capties, and by report of the Trumpetter, the pesaunts and women which came from Poitiers to search the dead, did finde, that of eight hundred men which wente from thence, there returned but fiftie, the rest being dead, or taken.

This worke of God is admirable, and not to be prayesd sufficiently, that the enemies had three for one, and yet we had not one man either slaine, or wounded vnto the death: only foure or fise Souldiers are lightly hurt, and those that are most dangerous, he wounded, may be healed in twelue daies, and of ours were three horse slaine.

The

The night drawing on, and waxing exceeding darke, and the want of Boates was the cause that they were forced to geue o-uer, and could not followe the victorie: on that side the river which wee passed before the conflict, so that the said Lord de Abain and de Sallerin, lodged in the Villages that were neere at hand, and bordering vppon Guierche, and the sayd Lord des Preux returned to Chattelleraut.

Vppon the Friday next following, the said Lord de Preux sent to summon the castle of the Ile, to which place the Vicount had withdrawen his Cannon, and the best part of his carriage. Which Castle did immediately yeelde at the first summon to capitaine l'Elpinette, and the spoile was sent to Chattelleraut.

On Saterday the eight day of Februa-rie, in the euening, and on Sundaye morning, they drew out of the water more then two hundred and fiftie drowned carcasses, and amongst others was the Lorde de Bonnes, de Perigueux, Lieutenant to the Vicont, and the Lord de Grandmont his nephewe, de Palustre, Chanboneau, and diuers others which were not knowen. And diuers others very sumptuouslie appattelled, and richlie armed, which they could not know. Besides,

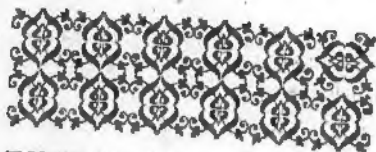
sides, daillie there are found more dead carcasses in the said river, as if the spring thereof should seeme vnable to be drawen drie, but still to increase.

This ouerthrowe which happened on Thursday, being the sixt day of Februarie, at foure of the clocke in the after noone, or thereabouts, is one of the most notablest things that euer happened in those Countries, since these last cruell warres, which manifesteth the great mercie of almightie God, in blessing and preserving the affaires of the most Christian King in these partes: for that therein was slaine, and taken prisoners, the most part of the chiefe Leaguers of Poictou, Lymasin, and Perigot.

Whose names, for the better satisfiing of all such as are desirous to bee acquainted with this ouerthrowe, are here set downe, as well those which were slaine, as those which were taken prisoners, to the great encouragement of all the true subiectes of that valiant French king: and the dismayng of the sworne seruants of that wicked monster of Rome, and his adherents, whom God at his good pleasure will ouerthrow and confound for euer.

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THE



THE NAMES OF ALL  
*such as were slaine or taken Prisoners.  
in this Battell.*

Slaine.

*The Vicont of Guyerche.*

*The Lord of Bonne, who was his Lieutenant in  
the government.*

*The Lord of Montaumar, Ensigne of the same  
Companie.*

*The Lord of Barre Sauvagere.*

*The Lord of Ferrandiere of Bournais.*

*The L. Palustre lieutenant of the men of Arms  
of the towne.*

*The Lordes of Anbus, Brethren.*

*The Lordes of Lamy upon Crense.*

*The Lord of Bardieré.*

*The Lord Narchais.*

*The L. Puy de la Barde.*

*The Lord of Mothe Bureau.*

*The Lord of Boumeliere, Lieutenant to the Lord  
of Montagne.*

*The*



*The Lord Esplaudian Captaine of a Companie  
of hargnebusiers on horsebacke.*

*Captaine Charren, leader of a Companie of fiftie  
hargnebusiers on horsebacke.*

*Beauvais Captaine of one Companie of hargne-  
busiers.*

*Captaine Cursay, Captaine of the Seyde Vicounts  
guard.*

*The Lorde Feret, Captaine of two hundred Spa-  
niards.*

*The Lord Grandmond, Nephew to Bonnes.*

*The Lord of Ville Cheze.*

*The Lorde of Grand-Meyne, of Angou-  
mois.*

*The Lorde of Estang, brother to Bois Cil-  
les.*

*The Lord Chastillon Soumy.*

*The Lord of Saint Pardoux.*

*The Lord of Largot.*

*The Lord of Perusse.*

*The Lord of Mougyn.*

*The Lord of Ardiller.*

*The Lord of Beguaye.*

*Conteric, Maister of the vaward to the Dutches  
of Montpensier.*

*The Lorde de Serrier, sené to Montinas.*

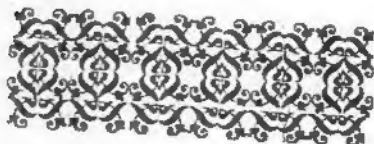
*The Lord of Fons Sarmau.*

*The Lord of Michenier.*

*The*

*The two Grues of Nyers.*

*And about one hundred and fiftie others Gentlemen and Captaines.*



THE NAMES OF THOSE  
that were taken prisoners.

*The Lord of Villechize, Lieutenant of the compagnie of the men of Armes of the sayde Countie.*

*The Lorde of Moulx, Esquier to the sayde Viscont.*

*The Lorde of Meré of Angoulmois, who had charge of a Regiment, and had the conduct of the enterprise of Angoulmois against the D of Effermon.*

*The Lord of Conseric.*

*The Lord of Fougere.*

*The Lord of Brueil of Ausignie, and the Capitaine Brueil his brother, with the said Ausigny his sonne.*

*The*

*The Lord of Contour.*

Besides, there bee many other speciall men  
of name, that is not as yet knowen where  
they are become, so as they be sure-  
ly thought to be drowned.

*The Lord of Albion, Commander of one compa-  
nie of Gentlemen at Armes.*

*The Lord of Briandiere.*

*The Lord of Graouliou.*

*The Lord of Morsaigne sonne to the Lord of On-  
nac.*

*The Lord of Ardiliere.*

*Bonneliere, Lieutenant to the Lorde of Mor-  
saigne.*

*Captaine Chancarre.*

*Chautagny lieutenant.*

The foresaid Vicounts Father as yet remai-  
neth in the castle of Guyerche, vntill  
the kings pleasure heerein be far-  
ther knowen.

FINIS.